Note on the Draft Constitution

The Indian Sociological Society (ISS) formulated its constitution 75 years back. At that time, the Society had 107 Life Members. Today there are approximately 7,500 Life Members.

This expansion, together with the diversification of its academic activities and the increasing complexity of the Society's institutional functioning, necessitates a fundamental review of its constitutional framework. It also implies the need to improve, upgrade and modernise the various clauses of the constitution while introducing new ones to reflect the state-of-art of the profession and the Society's current state of activities. Such an endeavour, would help to facilitate the Society's professional culture and its democratic, transparent, accountable and inclusive functioning.

With this objective, the Managing Committee constituted the Constitution Reform and Amendment Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing Constitution. The exercise has been extensive and deliberative, involving a careful clause-by-clause examination of the existing provisions. The primary objective has been to remove ambiguities, clarify institutional roles and responsibilities, strengthen established procedures, and incorporate provisions necessary to address the contemporary requirements of the Society.

The proposed amendments seek to retain the fundamental spirit and democratic character of the existing Constitution while bringing greater precision, consistency and coherence to its provisions. Particular attention has been paid to ensuring wider participation, strengthening collective decision-making, safeguarding academic and editorial autonomy, and promoting institutional accountability.

This process has involved several rounds of meetings and detailed deliberations among members of the Constitution Reform and Amendment Committee, followed by discussions with the Managing Committee, the Research Committee Convenors and the Editors. The exercise has also benefited from consultations and exchanges with senior members of the sociological fraternity, including the Society's earlier Presidents whose experience and institutional understanding have enriched the deliberations. Every effort has been made to accommodate diverse perspectives and arrive at a broad consensus.

The proposed amendments are divided into ten parts. These parts describe the Society, its purposes and its professional activities; define who can be its members; explain the eligibility requirements, the roles and responsibilities of its office bearers while specifying the rules regarding their elections and ensuring that the latter remain fair and free. It also presents guidelines for upholding the smooth conduct of the Society's governance structures-the Managing Committee and the General Body and has introduced new procedures for nominating and selecting Lifetime Achievement awardees and the newly introduced Book Award. It has asserted editorial autonomy of the Society's journals and has constituted a new body-the Research Council to govern Research Committees and Working Groups and to ensure their professional growth. In addition, this draft constitution has defined what are best practices for professional conduct and created a redressal mechanism to process complaints.

The revised draft is now being placed before the Life Members of the Indian Sociological Society for their careful perusal, consideration and constructive engagement, in accordance with the constitutional procedure.

As we approach the Platinum Jubilee of the Society, it is hoped that this exercise will contribute to strengthening ISS as a vibrant, inclusive, democratic and academically autonomous professional association, capable of carrying forward its distinguished legacy for generations to come.

On behalf of the Constitution Reform and Amendment Committee Indian Sociological Society.

Sujata Patel,
Convenor
25th November 2026